



STATE OF DELAWARE

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Task Force

Meeting Minutes – July 31, 2019

Senator Stephanie L. Hansen, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Task force members present were Representative Kevin S. Hensley, Senator Anthony Delcollo, Marissa Catalon, Deputy Director for the Division of Development Disabilities Service (DDDS), Laura Strmel, Director of Employment Services for St. John's Community Services, Gary Cassidy, Vice-President of Programming with Easter Seals, Bianca Allegro, Director of Delaware MENTOR, Michele Mirabella, Director of Residential Services for Chimes Delaware, Albert Anderson, Jr., Current Volunteer, former DDDS employee, Roy LaFontaine III, Retired DDDS employee, Terry Hancharick, Chair of the Advisory Council to DDDS and Vice-Chair of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities, Kyle Hodges, Policy Director for the State Council for Persons with Disabilities, Rita M. Landgraf, University of Delaware and former Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Health and Social Services, Allan R. Zaback, Wilmington University and former Director of the State Division of Aging, and former DDDS employee. Mark Brainard, Jr. and Amanda McAtee, Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee Analysts, Holly Vaughn-Wagner, Attorney for the Division of Research, and Natalie White, Administrative Assistant for the Division of Research, were also in attendance. Representative Kendra Johnson, Chair, was not present. A quorum was met.

Co-Chair Hansen welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that those in attendance introduce themselves and who they represent on the task force.

Co-Chair Hansen explained that SCR62 created the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) taskforce, tasked with studying and making recommendations regarding the policies, rules, structure, and regulations of the Division.

Co-Chair Hansen moved to item number 3 on the Agenda, an overview of DDDS, to ensure that members of the task force were on the same page. Marissa Catalon began the discussion on the Division's organizational charts.

LJ Thomas asked about the on-going issues with Therap, specifically the lack of appropriate access to vital patient information. Albert Anderson suggested that there be one service record that everyone uses to enter the necessary information about a patient. This way, everyone who has access to the system will be able to see the necessary information.

Senator Delcollo asked if the issues surrounding Therap relate to how the licensing and user interface is structured and questioned if any attempts to rectify this would bring about any legal

issues, particularly as it pertains to Federal regulations and Federal dollars. Marissa Catalon stated that current contract design is one of the complications. Senator Delcollo stated that an option going forward may be to have DDDS explore opportunities to renegotiate the contracts and licensing agreements so that the vendor can begin to improve functionality.

Co-Chair Hansen offered agreement that communication across the agency, providers, and individuals receiving services is a continuing challenge that she hopes the task force could assist with.

The discussion of the organization chart continued by Ms. Catalon. Before the discussion was completed, Co-Chair Hansen moved to item five on the agenda to discuss future meeting dates so that Senator Delcollo would be a part of the decision before he left. Co-Chair Hansen suggested having bi-weekly meetings instead of monthly meetings, due to the volume of information to discuss. A question was asked about quorum requirements. Holly Vaughn-Wagner, Attorney for the Division of Research, explained that a quorum would be met if half of the task force plus one (8 members) were in attendance. Because the availability for some members differed, Senator Delcollo suggested a Doodle Poll be emailed to all members to get a better idea of when everyone would be able to meet. A consensus agreed to the Doodle poll suggestion and staff agreed to create one and email the link to members.

The final conversation was in reference to the Stockley Center, which offers administrative and client services administered by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services. An overview of the Center's organizational chart was provided by Ms. Catalon. The conversation surrounding the Stockley Center focused on the services currently provided, staffing levels, and a discussion of funding and other financial challenges.

Co-Chair Hansen ended the meeting by stating the second meeting will focus on the proposed regulations addressing the oversight and monitoring issues between DDDS and service providers. The meeting concluded at 3:17pm.

Respectfully prepared by:

Amanda McAtee and Mark Brainard, Jr., JLOSC Analysts, Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee.

Access to the audio recording of this proceeding is available upon request.